

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15  
H-01 L-03 VO-03 SCA-01 /075 W  
-----042335Z 028683 /72-62

P 042154Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4225

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0774

EO 11652 XGDS-4

TAGS: SHUM, HA

SUBJECT: TWENTY-ONE POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 0766

1. LATEST RELEASE OF 21 HAITIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS  
(REFTEL) REFLECTS GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO REDUCE  
ITS VULNERABILITY TO HUMAN RIGHTS CRITICISM AND TO DEMONSTRATE  
RESPONSIVENESS TO CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S STRONGLY EXPRESSED  
POSITION OF THIS ISSUE. REPRESENTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS BY  
THREE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS (CONGRESSMEN RODINO AND  
RANGEL, SENATOR BROOKE) HAVE UNQUESTIONABLY HELPED. WE HAVE  
BEEN AUTHORITATIVELY TOLD THAT A NEW FACILITY IS UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND WE HAVE HAD REPORTS  
THAT CONDITIONS HAVE RECENTLY IMPROVED IN OTHER PRISONS.

2. PROFESSOR JEAN-CLAUDE EXULIEN, WHOSE NAME LED OFF THE  
AFP STORY, IS IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY FROM THE OTHERS ON THE  
LIST THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY. HE WAS ARRESTED  
JUNE 29, 1976 AND RELEASED FEBRUARY 16, 1977. SEVERAL REASONS  
HAVE BEEN ADVANCED -- INCLUDING ACCUSATION BY SOME PARENTS THAT  
HE WAS TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN RADICAL POLITICAL THEORIES --  
BUT EXULIEN HIMSELF HAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS NEVER  
INTERROGATED THROUGHOUT HIS IMPRISONMENT AND WAS NEVER  
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TOLD REASON FOR HIS DETENTION. HE WAS WELL-TREATED IN  
PRISON BUT HIS EXPERIENCE HAS LED HIM TO CONCLUSION THAT HE  
MUST PURSUE HIS CAREER OUTSIDE HAITI. HE PLANS TO EMIGRATE  
TO UNITED STATES WHERE HIS WIFE AND TWO SMALL CHILDREN ALL  
HAVE PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS. FULL REPORT ON EXULIEN  
FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

3. OF THE REMAINING 20 LISTED, OUR FILES INDICATE THAT AT LEAST 14 WERE ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1969, FOLLOWING PEASANT DISTURBANCES IN THE LATREMBLAY REGION OF CROIX DES BOUQUETS (IN THE CUL DE SAC PLAIN NOT FAR FROM PORT AU PRINCE). OUR PRINCIPAL EVIDENCE OF THIS IS LIST OF FELLOW PRISONERS PROVIDED BY POLITICAL PRISON RELEASED IN LATE 1975 (SEE EMBASSY POLITICAL SECTION MEMORANDUM DATED JUNE 23, 1976). THESE ARE WILFRED ANDRE, DIEUDONNE AUGUSTE, DANIEL BORN, ST. MARTIN CASIMIR, JOSEPH DUCLAIREUR (GIVEN AS DUCLERON IN MEMO), ROMULUS ELIACIN (GIVEN AS ELIALIN IN MEMO), DIEUDONNE EUGENE, KLEBERT JEAN, DOMINIQUE JOSEPH, SINCERE JOSEPH, PETUEL LOUIS-JEUNE, ALBERIC MONDESIR, MONTDESIR SEMAXAN (NAMES REVERSED IN MEMO), AND DUVIELLA ZAMOR. AT LEAST THREE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS -- ELIACIN, EUGENE AND DOMINIQUE JOSEPH -- HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INQUIRIES TO THE EMBASSY. WE ALSO NOTE THAT IN EARLY DECEMBER 1975 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCCLOSKEY SENT A LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER REGARDING ELIACIN. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT MENTIONED IN LETTER, AMBASSADOR ISHAM GAVE THEN MINISTER OF INTERIOR PAUL BLANCHET COPIES OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE ON ELIACIN ON OCTOBER 27, 1975. BLANCHET, HOWEVER, DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF CASE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT REPORT THIS LATEST GOH RELEASE TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER, MAKING REFERENCE TO MCCLOSKEY LETTER. WE WILL INCLUDE THIS DEVELOPMENT IN OUR SUMMARY OF RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS BEING SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO STATE 46674. CONGRESSMEN RODINO AND RANGEL AND SENATOR BROOKE SHOULD ALSO BE INFORMED, PERHAPS BY SENDING CONFIDENTIAL

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THEM COPIES OF LETTER TO FRASER.  
ISHAM

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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